

# CARE AND GENERAL MAINTENANCE FOR HARDWOOD FLOORS

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Wood is a living material, it moves with the seasons. Wood tends to expand or contract depending on the temperature and humidity of the environment. Therefore, to preserve your flooring, it is recommended that you maintain a constant humidity in the space it is used. A Relative Humidity of 35%-55% is recommended and can be achieved with the use of humidifiers or dehumidifiers.

With today's advances in wood flooring stains and finishes caring for your wood floors have never been easier.

## **What To Do:**

\*As with any wood floor, follow a program of cleaning, sweeping and vacuuming (head must be brush or felt) to eliminate as much dirt and grit as possible, and remember moisture **SHOULD NOT** come in contact with the floor. If it does, it should be wiped up immediately.

\*Always use a manufacturers' recommended hardwood floor cleaning product, which will not leave a residue on the floor. Contact the manufacture for details. If the manufacture isn't know us a generic hardwood floor cleaner available at a local wood flooring retail store.

\*Use protective pads or caps on "feet" of all furniture and appliances.

\*For difficult cleaning chores, use a small amount of mineral spirits and a clean soft cloth. Follow cleaning with a recommended wood flooring cleaner.

\*Use walk off mats at all entry and exit doorways.

\*Protect your floor from direct sunlight

## **What Not To Do:**

\*Don't use any of the following products (or products similar in nature) on your floor: ammonia based cleaners, acrylic finishes, wax based products, detergents, bleach, polishes and oil soaps, abrasive cleaning soaps or acidic materials such as vinegar.

\*Don't let sand, dirt or grit build up on floors.

\*Don't wet mop hardwood floors. Don't flood floors. Often excessive water will cause the floor to swell and warp.

\*Don't let your pets' claws go untrimmed. Claw trimming avoids scratches and gouges in you flooring.

\*Avoid walking on hardwood floors in cleats, sports shoes and high heels.

\*Avoid sliding heavy furniture/appliances across floors.

\*Don't use vacuums with beater heads or hard heads.

\*Don't use rubber, foam or plastic mats as they trap moisture.